

To: Maurice ~~XXXX~~ Wilkins

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

Perceptions of Avery in 1944

I wonder if you would permit me to press you on the remark noted (from your Nobel Prize lecture) which stands as an interesting datum in the intellectual history of DNA.

When you say it seemed almost unknown in 1946-- what did you mean? Did you have a particular circle in mind? Had you seen the 1946 Cold Spring Harbor Symposium? Gulland et al's review in Ann Rev Biochem 1945?

Or are you responding to the controversy (e.g. Mirsky) about possible contamination of DNA by protein?

Do you recall how you first learned of, first appreciated, the Avery.. '44 paper?

Anything else you might wish to record about this would be most gratefully received. As you know a fair fuss is being made about the period '44-49, and as I am writing a bit of a memoir myself on the nearby theme of bacterial recombination, I should like to collect a sound set of impressions.

Sincerely,

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